

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
INTERVIEWED BY <u>JL</u>	DATE <u>8/18/87</u>
RECEIVED ENCLOSED DATE	
TS AUTH. REASON(S)	
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS (IF)	
DECLASSIFIED/RELEASABLE ☒	
FOUO/FOI EXEMPTIONS	

Black Hebrews

Has the USG had contact with the group?

If so, what are general impressions of health and welfare of members living in Israel?

Do you have a comment on the parallels drawn with the People's Temple as drawn in the Jerusalem Post Article?

Will the USG be increasing its contacts with the group and its leadership?

Do you anticipate any formal Israeli Gov't intervention in the group's activities?

If there has been any intervention or if any is anticipated, what form did/would it take?

1. The USG has had contact with the ~~Black~~ Black Hebrews over the years that they've been in Israel. The USG provides the normal services for this group of American citizens and periodically visits the group.

2. Initially ~~the group's~~ living conditions were not very good because ^{most of} the Black Hebrews are in Israel illegally and therefore not tied into the regular social services which Israel provides its citizens. In the last several years efforts have been made to regularize their status sufficiently that the community can be included in health and education services.

Conditions have improved, and continuing efforts are being made to further improve living conditions. *The question of their status in Israel is of course an issue for the Government of Israel. It would be misleading to draw more than a superficial parallel between*
3. ~~While there may be a superficial parallel between~~ the People's Temple ^{in Guyana} and the Black Hebrews in Israel, the relationship of the community to the surrounding society is very different. First, the Dimona community is in downtown Dimona, a fairly large Israeli city. Second, many of the Black Hebrews work outside the community and have exposure to Israelis and Israelis to them. Third, Israel ^{officials} [conscious of security considerations of health and social considerations and of international publicity considerations] stay in very close touch with the community.

Consequently the secrecy and the isolation of the People's Temple do not exist in the Black Hebrew community.

4. The USG will continue to pay attention to this community of American citizens.

5. There is the possibility, as stated in the Jerusalem Post article, that Israel will ~~now~~ take some action vis-a-vis the Black Hebrew community.

6. ~~xxxx~~ Past actions have generally been of the nature of trying to improve their status and relations.

or

The GAO, as a outcome of the Guyana incident, is visiting various countries to examine the consular services provided to American citizens. This team will be visiting Israel the first two weeks of March.

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